

(Draft – Awaiting Formal Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE  
REVENUE AND TAXATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 445 State  
Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Deidre M. Henderson, Senate  
Chair Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox, House  
Chair Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Sen. John L. Valentine Rep. Stewart  
Barlow Rep. Joel K. Briscoe Rep.  
Rebecca Chavez-Houck Rep. Tim  
M. Cosgrove Rep. Steve Eliason  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson Rep. Eric K.  
Hutchings Rep. Michael S. Kennedy  
Rep. Jim Nielson Rep. Val L.  
Peterson  
Rep. Dixon M.  
Pitcher Rep. Jon  
E. Stanard Rep.  
Earl D. Tanner  
Rep. John R.

Westwood

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Curtis S.  
Bramble Sen.  
Gene Davis Rep.  
James A.  
Dunnigan

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Assistant  
Director Ms. Rebecca L. Rockwell,  
Associate General Counsel Ms.  
Samantha Coombs, Legislative  
Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barlow, Rep. Eliason, Rep. Gibson, Rep. Hutchings, Rep. Kennedy, and Rep. Nielson were absent for the vote.

Mr. Dean distributed and summarized "Utah State Tax Commission Revenue Summary: 12 Months FY 2012-13."

**2. Appointment of Tax Commissioners**

Sen. Stephenson presented draft legislation "Joint Resolution on Membership of the State Tax Commission" (2014FL-0208/003). Sen. Stephenson explained that the proposed legislation amends the Utah Constitution by removing the partisan provisions for selecting members of the Utah State Tax Commission ("Tax Commission"). He said further discussion is needed on raising the qualifications for future tax commissioners and increasing the salaries of tax commissioners.

Sen. Valentine agreed that the partisan provisions for selecting tax commissioners should be removed from the Utah Constitution and that further discussion is needed on raising the qualifications for a tax commissioner.

Mr. Mark Buchi, attorney and former chair, Tax Commission, provided a history of the Tax Commission and explained why the partisan provisions were implemented. He expressed support for removing the partisan provisions for selecting tax commissioners.

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Mr. Roger Tew, attorney and former commissioner, Tax Commission, said that the Tax Commission functions at its best when it maintains a wide diversity of expertise by its members.

Chair Henderson pointed out that the purpose of removing the partisan provisions is to broaden the pool of candidates, but if the qualifications for a tax commissioner are raised the pool of candidates would be restricted.

Sen. Stephenson explained that raising the qualifications for a tax commissioner would limit the number of candidates, but the number of candidates would not be immediately limited because of their party affiliation.

The committee discussed diversity of experience and the current approach for maintaining diversity of expertise on the Tax Commission.

### **3. Other Items/Adjourn**

Chair Henderson explained that there was not time to discuss the other items on the agenda and that these items may be considered at a future meeting.

Chair Henderson thanked Mr. Dean for his work with the committee and wished him the best with his new position in the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

**MOTION:** Rep. Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Valentine was absent for the vote.

Chair Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.